

WAVES RELINQUISH SCHOOL AT HUNTER

4 Buildings Where 80,000 Were Trained to Be Reconverted to College Purposes

Today the "USS Hunter," where the Navy trained more than 80,000 enlisted Waves, will be turned back to Hunter College. It may be mid-March, however, before reversion of the four buildings on the Bronx campus begins, and fall before civilian students again use them, it was reported yesterday.

After Dr. George N. Shuster, Hunter's president, accepts the keys that he relinquished Feb. 8, 1943, Navy and city officials will start to work on detailed specifications for the restoration of original facilities.

The decommissioning ceremony at 11 A. M. will be only the first step, Dr. Shuster pointed out, for locker rooms must be made back into science laboratories, and mess halls into lounges.

One of the Waves' celebrated additions will be retained, at least in part, Dr. Shuster said. Henceforth, the Hunter home economics department will have a small beauty parlor at its disposal.

In perhaps a month an estimate of the cost of the "re-modeling" will be available, according to the president of the city's college for women. While the contract under which Hunter's Bronx branch became a Navy training station provides that the Navy return the branch in its original condition, plans for whatever changes are deemed necessary will be cooperatively devised, Dr. Shuster said. The Navy will pay the bills.

During its almost three years of tenancy, the service made full use of campus athletic fields. "They're all in excellent condition," Dr. Shuster noted.

Not only did more than 80,000 young women take their Wave "boot training" at the Bronx station, but also 3,380 Women Marines and 1,958 Spars. before these services opened their own schools. In addition, several thousand Waves took various specialists' training there.

In 1943-44 the station's population averaged 6,000, naval officers said, but since the last class was graduated Dec. 6 its complement has dwindled to less than 100. Only one Wave who was "aboard" the day the Hunter was commissioned still is on duty there—Yeoman Margaret Persson of 667 East 232d Street, the Bronx.

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